

HOSSEIN & ANGELA VALAMANESH

17 OCTOBER - 15 NOVEMBER 2008

Opening 6 - 8pm Friday 17 October

It is with great pleasure that staff from Turner Galleries welcome their third and final artist in residence for 2008, Hossein Valamanesh, accompanied by his wife Angela Valamanesh. Together they will be exhibiting at Turner Galleries from 17 October to 15 November.

Hossein is presenting an overview of his career that includes works from 1993 to 2008. On show will be a range of works on paper, sculptural ladders, bronzes, branches and installations. Angela is exhibiting new ceramic works, based on organic forms. This interest in the natural world is what links their work, as does their meticulous craftsmanship and a curiosity about language and its many structures. The works of both artists are lyrical in their symmetry, balance and elegance of form. They have collaborated many times in the past, and have done so again literally in two works in this exhibition, a digital print and a work on paper incorporating Rubinia leaves.

What really intrigues the viewer about the Valamanesh's art is the wonder of the creation process, the seeming impossibility of the end product. Hossein's iconic ladder, *Madmen have seen the moon* from 2005, features interlocking ladders, seemingly precariously balanced, and impossibly interlinked, that reaches over four meters high into the gallery rafters. Angela's ceramic forms with their beautiful unglazed surfaces, appear to be natural forms, of pods, webs, corals or alien organs, not hand crafted from clay. Hossein's untitled circular works made from spiny Cornus branches appear to be made from bronze, yet the work *Memory stick*, which spells the word "memory", looks like wooden sticks but is actually cast bronze. There is certainly an element of teasing in their work, a sense of humour and intellectual vigour.

Many of Angela's works are from her new *Natural History Collection*. They are curious, like some strange cross between bodily organs and reef corals. Their unglazed ceramic finish looks fleshy and porous, yet robust. *Miscellaneous items* is a collection of 10 objects, that together seem to be a coded message, an alien alphabet composed of organic forms, or exotic hieroglyphs.

Angela was born in South Australia in 1953. She is represented by Helen Stephens Gallery in Sydney and has work in the Art Gallery of South Australia, the Hobart City Council, Manly Art Gallery & Museum, University of Adelaide, Westpac, McQuarrie Bank, Aomori Contemporary Art Centre Japan, and LaTrobe University. Angela has exhibited internationally, including New Zealand, the USA, Pakistan and Japan. This is her first exhibition in Perth.

Hossein was born in Iran in 1949 and emigrated to Australia in 1973. He has exhibited extensively in Australia and overseas, including Poland, Japan and Germany. An *Art & Australia* monograph was published on his work in 1996, an important career survey was held at the Art Gallery of SA in 2001, followed by a solo exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney in 2002. This year he was included in the Adelaide Biennale of Australian Art. His work can be found in most major public art collections across Australia, including all state collections. Hossein is represented by GRANTPIRIE in Sydney and by Paul Greenaway Art Gallery in Adelaide.

Please do not hesitate to contact staff on 08 9227 1077 or email info@turnergalleries.com.au should you require more information or images from the exhibition. Exhibition works will be available to view on line: www.turnergalleries.com.au. Hossein and Angela will be available for interviews and photo opportunities from 11 October to 20 November.

Hossein Valamanesh's residency is proudly sponsored by Turner Galleries Art Angels and Central Tafe.